

Words from Chief Hall



Welcome and thank you for checking out the latest edition of our Community Briefing, describing the people and programs of WPD. We are having an outstanding year and are proud to announce several pieces of good news. The first is that our crime rate in Westminster has continued to drop, despite a regional and national trend of gradual increase. We credit you for being so alert and calling whenever suspicious activity occurs. We've been fortunate to catch many crimes in progress because of your prompt calls. We are also working on a beautiful memorial, being built within the Civic Center, to honor Police Officers who have died in the line

of duty. This memorial will be unveiled to the public in late August and we hope you will join us for the ceremony. Before I conclude, the Mayor and Westminster City Council just approved a contract with a firm for architectural and engineering plans on the new police facility we are planning to build. As always, the Council has been extremely supportive, as have all of you, and we are grateful for it. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to serve you more effectively. We welcome your comments any time. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

On July 4, 1776, our country claimed independence from Britain and Democracy was born. Every day thousands leave their homeland to come to the "land of the free and the home of the brave" so they can begin their American Dream. The Westminster Police Department wishes you a safe and joyful holiday.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE BY KELLY STRONG

I watched the flag pass by one day. It fluttered in the breeze A young soldier saluted it, and then He stood at ease. I looked at him in uniform So young, so tall, so proud With hair cut square and eyes alert He'd stand out in any crowd. I thought how many men like him Had fallen through the years. How many died on foreign soil? How many mothers' tears? How many Pilots' planes shot down? How many foxholes were soldiers' graves? No Freedom is not free I heard the sound of taps one night, When everything was still. I listened to the bugler play And felt a sudden chill. I wondered just how many times That taps had meant "Amen" When a flag had draped a coffin of a brother or a friend. I thought of all the children. Of the mothers and the wives. Of fathers, sons and husbands

With interrupted lives. I thought about a graveyard At the bottom of the sea Of unmarked graves in Arlington. No, Freedom isn't free!



Memorial Ground Breaking



In May, the WPOA broke ground on the Westminster Police Officers Memorial during a brief ceremony in the Civic Center. The event was attended by Senator Lou Correa, Westminster City Council, city employees, and members of the community.

As part of the ceremony, the WPOA introduced Gary Hart from the *Hartscape Company* who will be completing the construction of the police officers memorial. Mr. Hart is a resident and operates his business out of Westminster.

At the conclusion of the speeches, the Mayor and City Council members joined Chief Hall and the WPOA Board members for the ceremonial ground breaking.

Construction of the memorial is well underway and should be completed in the middle of July. The bronze statue that will stand on the center pedestal should arrive during the first part of August. The WPOA is planning an unveiling ceremony for the middle of





of cost the completed memorial will be in the area of \$150,000. Donations to the Westminster Police Officers Association Memorial Fund will go directly to the completion of the memorial. After the completion of the memorial, additional funds will be used to benefit the families of fallen officers.

For more information you may contact Sgt. Dan Schoonmaker at (714) 898-3315 ext. 408.

Memorial Fundraiser Dinner

On April 28th, the Westminster Police Officers Association held the WPOA Memorial Banquet at the Westminster Rose Center. Over three hundred people attended the dinner to raise money for the Police Officers Memorial.

The evening included a key note address from Captain Mitch Waller, a silent auction, and a live auction. The event raised over \$20,000 which will be used for the construction of the memorial.

As you can imagine an event like this is not easy to plan. Numerous hours of hard work were volunteered by the following employees: Sgt. Tom Finley, Teresita Proctor, Judyth Lance, Doreen vanLith, Karen Rackleff, Jenny Truong, Darlene Cantrell, Kris Nelson, and many others. Without their assistance this event would not have been possible.



Artist's rendition of the proposed memorial site (located within the Civic Center) and memorial statue.

Remembering Our Fallen Heroes

Each year, thousands pay tribute to the nation's fallen law enforcement heroes during National Police Week held in May. Officers from WPD attended the California Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremonies in Sacramento. Attendance was in memory of Lieutenant Ron Weber, Sr., and Motor Officer Steve Phillips.

"Today we are here to remember 16 California peace officers who were killed in the line of duty... Tragically, we lost 12 of them in 2006...My heart goes out to you and to all the colleagues and loved ones who supported these officers as they performed their noble duty. These officers and their families have the appreciation of a grateful state and we shall never forget their great service to our people."

- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger



Lieutenant Ron Weber, Sr., passed away on June 6, 2003, after 24 years of service with Westminster.



Motor Officer Steve Phillips was fatally injured in a vehicle accident while he was on duty on January 29, 2004. He was with the department for 18 years.

<u>Demille Elementary School</u> <u>Presentation</u>

In May, officers from our department were presented with a banner commemorating National Police Officers Memorial Week from the fifth and sixth grade classes of Demille Elementary School. The students generated over \$750 to purchase the banner through pizza sales, pencil sales, and in some cases, their own savings. The banner was displayed over Westminster Blvd. during National Police Officers Memorial Week which was May 13th -17th.

Additionally, each student "adopted" an officer as a pen pal. Their letters were delivered to each of our officers who in turn wrote back to each of the students.

The memorial banner will be displayed each year during National Police Officers Memorial Week.

WPD Honors WSD Students



In 2003, the Westminster Police Department, Westminster Police Officers Association, and the Westminster School District created the "Westminster Police"

Department Special Commendation." The award recognizes students for their hard work and spirit. The Award program is open to all Westminster Elementary School District students.

Teachers and/or staff from each school select the winning students who have demonstrated good grades,

spirit. positive willingness to help other students and staff, being a positive role model, being with all current assignments and projects, and being



well behaved. Since the end of May, we have honored thirty-two students from each of the sixteen Westminster School District schools with this very special award.

WPOA Hoops

The Westminster Police Officers Association has begun the fifth season of the WPOA Hoops basketball league. This league is sponsored entirely by the WPOA and provides fifty Westminster boys and girls a free season of indoor basketball. Officers and other police employees volunteer as coaches, referees, and score keepers.



The six-game season culminates with an All Star night and skills competition. Selected players compete in a slam dunk competition, three-point shootout, and handling/passing competition. Also included in the evening's events is a game between the WPOA and the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

All proceeds from the All Star event go towards the Westminster Boys and Girls Club. This year's All Star night will take place on Tuesday, July 24th beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Westminster Boys



and Girls Club. For more information you can contact Sgt. Dan Schoonmaker at (714) 898-3315 ext. 408.

Torch Run for Special Olympics



Our department participated in the 2007 Southern California Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics. The Torch Run is the largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle for the Special Olympics.

Officers ran the "Flame of Hope" which was enroute to the Opening Ceremonies (destined for the summer games at the California State Long Beach campus). WPD ran the "Flame of Hope" from Garden Grove PD to Fountain Valley PD.

<u>Distinguished Service</u> Awards



Officers Jeremy Hill, Steve Eifert, Bill Drinnin, Sergeant Marcus Frank and Chief Andrew Hall.

On Wednesday, May 9th, at a special presentation during the City Council meeting, our department honored four employees with Distinguished Service medals. These medals are the highest honor bestowed upon our employees and are awarded to those who have demonstrated meritorious, courageous, and valorous actions above and beyond the call of duty. The honorees were:

Bronze Medal of Merit - Sergeant Marcus Frank

Sgt. Frank has been a police officer with Westminster for 27 years. Over 19 of those years were dedicated to fighting crime that impacted our Asian population in the Little Saigon area. Sgt. Frank was the first investigator in Orange County assigned exclusively to the investigation of Asian criminal activities and has investigated over 2000 Asian gang crimes. He has also been the case agent of several intellectual property counterfeit cases known to be the largest cases of their type in the United States.

Sgt. Frank was asked to provide information to the President's Commission on Organized Crime as it pertained to Asian gangs. He testified on Asian criminal enterprises for the California Governor's Commission on Crime. Furthermore he testified on Asian criminal enterprises for the California Senate Sub-Committee on drug trafficking.

In 1998, Sgt. Frank received the prestigious Frederick Milton Award by the National Gang Crime Research Center for his efforts in gang research and education on Asian gangs. He was also the recipient of the prestigious Asian Gang Investigator of the Year award from the International Association of Asian Crime Investigators.

Sgt. Frank has provided training in the area of Asian criminal enterprises to law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys in 21 states across the country and four provinces in Canada. As a result of of his renowned background, the Federal State Department invited Sgt. Frank to be the first local law enforcement officer to visit and lecture government officials in the country of Vietnam concerning crimes involving Asian trademark infringement.

Sgt. Marcus Frank is very deserving of this award because of his outstanding individual performance as a law enforcement officer in the area of Asian gangs and organized crime investigations. The seriousness and complexity of the cases he has managed has brought both him and our department accolades from law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and throughout the world.

The Westminster Police Department is honored to announce Sgt. Marcus Frank as the recipient of the Bronze Medal of Merit.

<u>Silver Medal of Courage</u> - Officer Bill Drinnin, Officer Steve Eifert, Officer Jeremy Hill

Although there are many types of calls for service that present significant danger to officers, perhaps the most challenging are encounters with people who are suicidal. During these situations officers have to balance their own safety while trying to save the life of the individual.

During the cold, windy morning of December 27, 2006, patrol officers were called to assist a female who had climbed to the roof of her five-story apartment complex and was threatening to jump. Officer Jeremy Hill and Officer Steve Eifert were the first officers to arrive. As they exited their patrol cars, they looked to the roof and could see the woman seated on the edge of the building with her legs hanging over the side. They quickly made their way to the rooftop and were joined by Officer Bill Drinnin.

Officers encountered a second citizen on the roof who was seated near the suicidal woman and was talking to her in an attempt keep her from jumping. It was clear to all three officers that the woman was serious about taking her own life and they quickly devised a rescue plan.

Officer Hill engaged the woman in conversation, while Officers Drinnin and Eifert covertly moved so they could approach her undetected. As the officers put themselves into position, they could see the woman looking down at the ground and begin to exaggerate her breathing. From their training in dealing with suicidal subjects, the officers knew this

was a sign the woman was preparing to jump. Without hesitation or fear for their own safety, all three officers raced to the edge of the building and grabbed the woman and the citizen seated next to her. Even as they were pulling her to safety, the woman continued to struggle with the officers. She was safely subdued and transported to an area hospital.

Excellent teamwork is one of the principles that guide us in our interactions with the community we serve. All three of these officers clearly epitomized this principle while exhibiting a high degree of courage, initiative, and professionalism while saving a life.

A.T.A.C Honors:



Detective Mike Ogawa with Officer Scott Gump

Officer Gump is one of Westminster's newest Police Officers. However, he was a police explorer for many years and worked as an intern before becoming a sworn peace officer. Although he is newer, he has demonstrated some of the skills of a seasoned officer. In 2006 Officer Gump made nine arrests during the course of recovering stolen vehicles. The dedication he has shown to this profession will surely help detour crime and keep our community safe. Officer Gump is off to a solid start in his law enforcement career.

The Auto Theft Advisory Committee (A.T.A.C.) is a partnership between law enforcement, insurance companies, and other auto-related companies whose goal is to reduce auto theft. Each year ATAC honors the top stolen vehicle recovery officer at each Police Department, Sheriff's Station, and Highway Patrol Station in Orange County. We are pleased to announce Officer Scott Gump was this year's recipient of the ATAC Auto Theft Recovery Award.

Employee of the Month

APRIL OFFICERS OF THE MONTH: Sergeant Tom Broderson & Officer Timothy Thompson

On 4/25/07 at approximately 2032 a burglary occurred. Sergeant Broderson was able to locate the suspect vehicle via the street camera system. Officer Thompson responded, located the vehicle and followed it toward the 22 Freeway. The vehicle was stopped and three suspects were taken into custody. Although other officers assisted with these arrests, both Sergeant Broderson and Officer Thompson went above and beyond in capturing the three suspects using their skills and knowledge.

EXCELLENT TEAMWORK SERGEANT BRODERSON AND OFFICER THOMPSON!

MAY OFFICERS OF THE MONTH:
Officer Bill Eifert
Officer Immy Gist

Officer Jimmy Gist Officer Keith Phan

On 5/28/07, Officer Eifert responded to a vehicle burglary. A witness provided a partial license plate of the suspect's vehicle. Later in the day a citizen called in a suspicious vehicle matching the suspect vehicle. Officer Eifert, remembering the last three digits of the suspect's vehicle, saw a vehicle matching the description and initiated a felony traffic stop. Officer Gist assisted with searching the vehicle and recovered some of the victim's property. Officer Gist and Officer Phan obtained consent to search the residence of one of the suspects and recovered more property. The District Attorney's Office has filed charges on all suspects.

A JOB WELL DONE BY ALL OFFICERS!

Officers Honored

Two of our employees received special honors during the month of April. Sergeant Darin Upstill received the Orange County American Legion Medal of Valor for his actions during a SWAT operation last year. Sergeant Upstill was selected from a group of fourteen officers nominated from various law enforcement agencies throughout the county.

Officer Manh Ingwerson received the gold medal as the top competitor in the International Police & Fire Olympics bench press competition. Officer Ingwerson posted an impressive lift of 340 lbs. to win his eighth gold medal in international competition.

Every 15 Minutes

Westminster High School was the location of this year's *Every 15 Minutes* anti-drinking and driving program. Twenty-six junior and senior students



participated. The Grim Reaper (Gene Rosen) removed participants from class while officers the entered classroom and read mock

obituaries. Later in the day, the junior and senior classes observed a staged crash scene where WPD motors and OCFA personnel responded.

One student was transported to the hospital, where his parents had to deal with his "death," while another

student was declared "dead," placed in a body bag and removed from the scene in a funeral coach, and a third student was given a Field Sobriety Test (FST) and arrested for DUI.



All participants were transported to WPD where they witnessed the booking of the DUI. From WPD participants went to the West Justice Center where other students were the jury, defense and prosecuting attorneys.



The court procedure was followed by a sobering tour of the mortuary. The mortuary tour included viewing the casket selection room, refrigerator, embalming and dressing

rooms. The mortuary tour is the most powerful aspect of the *Every 15 Minutes* program because the participants realize their poor decision making will lead them to a cold metal mortuary table!

On day two of the program, students and parents spoke to a school assembly of their experiences, emphasizing the hazards of drinking and driving. At the conclusion of the assembly, parents and students exchanged personal letters they wrote to each other the night before.

Click It or Ticket



The two seconds it takes to secure your seat belt can be the two seconds that save your life! The reason the government launched the "Click It or Ticket" enforcement campaign is to save lives and prevent injuries.

California has a primary seat belt law which requires that every passenger in the car, including the driver, is required to wear a seat belt at all times. If stopped and found to be in violation, law enforcement will issue citations without warning. Tickets for seat belt violations range from \$80-\$91 for adults. When children under 16 are not properly secured in a vehicle, the parent or driver can receive one 'point count' on their driving record, with a fine of \$330 to \$401 on a first offense and \$795 to \$971 on a second offense.

Despite the awareness of individuals to the life saving action of simply securing a seat belt, many are not taking the necessary steps to protect themselves and their children on every ride. We know that enforcing the law is the most effective way to change this behavior. Buckle up!

Memorial Bike Ride "Project 999"



The first week of May, employees from our department participated in the annual Project 999 Police Officers Memorial Bicycle Ride. The ride began in Sacramento at the State Memorial on May 5th and ended 630 miles later on May 8th at the Orange County Police Memorial. Project 999 is a non-profit organization through the Orange County Sheriff's Department that assists the families of officers who

have been killed or injured in the line of duty. This year's event raised over \$68,000.



We would like to congratulate the following WPD personnel who met this challenge:

Captain Mitch Waller Lt. Kevin Baker Det. Jim Mraz Det. Dave Ferronato Dispatcher Nick Lewis Lt. Jack Davidson Sgt. Dan Schoonmaker Det. Kevin MacCormick Det. Alan Iwashita Dispatcher Stephanie Subia



Baker to Vegas

The "Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay Run" took place on April 21-20, 2007. WPD ran the relay in the "99 & Under"

division (99 sworn officers or less) which had 18 teams competing. Our department finished 4th in our division and 103rd overall out of a total of 227 teams.

CONGRATULATIONS & GREAT JOB EVERYONE!



Flag Day Ceremony

This year marked the 225th birthday of the US Flag! On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress approved the design of a national flag. Since 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential

proclamation establishing a national Flag Day on June 14, Americans have commemorated the embracing of the Stars and Stripes by celebrating June 14th.



In honor of Flag Day, the City of Westminster held a ceremony. The Mayor, Council members,

Westminster Police Department Honor Guard and members of the community were all in attendance.

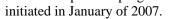
Girlpower Program



Statistics show from 1990 to 1999 violent crime rates among females skyrocketed. Cases of assaults involving females as the aggressors rose 93%, aggravated assault

rose 57% and weapons violations rose 44%. Westminster has not escaped these trends. Over the last few years there has been a dramatic jump in the number of violent incidents at the three intermediate schools in the Westminster School District (WSD). Many of these incidents were found to involve females. One student claimed that the first day she began a new school she was confronted by three different groups of girls who threatened her. She eventually got into a fight with one of the groups. During the course of the investigation into this event, several girls were interviewed. A large percentage of the girls interviewed did not show any remorse and even stated that this type of behavior is expected and acceptable to their peer groups.

After these incidents it was decided that something had to be done to attempt to change the mindset of the female students. Several meetings were held between the Westminster Police Department (WPD) and the Westminster School District (WSD). It was decided that WPD would provide four female police officers who would be trained to teach specific courses to girls at each of the three intermediate schools within the WSD. These classes were to be taught during the student's lunch hours to not take away any instructional time. The "Girlpower" program was





The girls in the program were girls that had been involved in fights as either the aggressors or the victims. Some girls may have only been spectators at the fight but would have to be active in either setting the fights up or taunting the combatants to fight.

The object of the group was to give the girls the skills necessary to make proper decisions. Each intermediate school was assigned one or two WPD officers. In some cases the officers were partnered with WSD violence prevention personnel.

Each team was assigned to two sets of girls (one per lunch group). The teams met with each group once a week at lunch for approximately one (1) hour.

The program was provided to over 80 girls over the course of the first year which was only the second semester.

Our goal is to double the number of officers volunteering for the program to eight officers. Volunteers will also include female dispatchers who have expressed an interest in helping with the program. We also plan on doubling the number of classes offered each semester. We will offer the program both semesters, and the participating officers will also be called on to provide assembly like meetings to discuss areas of concerns within the school. By doing this we will greatly increase the number of students the program will reach. This could boost the number of students serviced by the program to 1500 students.

During the course of the program the girls were given the opportunity to attend a "Girls Night Out." They were able to meet with the girls from the other schools at the Boys and Girls Club of Westminster and spend the evening watching movies, eating pizza, and receiving awards. The awards had been decided by the other girls in the program. The girls were also able to attend a theatrical performance together. It has been proposed that we increase the number of these educational field trips in the coming years.

Police Academy Graduation

On April 20, 2007, another group of community oriented leaders graduated from the Golden West College Police Academy. The ceremony was the first to be held at the new Rose Center. The Mayor, Westminster Police Department Honor Guard, members of area law enforcement community, family and friends of graduates attended the ceremony.



WE CONGRATULATE THE GRADUATES OF CLASS 2007 AND WISH THEM GREAT SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE!

New Faces at WPD

Following the Graduation ceremony, the WPD family welcomed Officers Anthony Donner, Rachel Lumba and Julie Zaborowski. They were sworn in by Chief Hall in front of family and friends. Also sworn in on April 20, 2007 was Dispatcher Andrea Martell.



Anthony Donner-Police Officer

Donner was an Intern at WPD for 4 years. He graduated from La Quinta High School and is close to completing his Bachelors degree at California State University of Long Beach. Donner graduated from Golden West College Police Academy as *the number one recruit in his class*, and he speaks Vietnamese.



Rachel Lumba-Police Officer

Lumba has her Bachelors in Science degree in Business Administration from Oklahoma Christian University. She previously worked at All Nippon Airways as a Senior Associate and she speaks conversational Japanese.



Julie Zaborowski-Police Officer

Zaborowski is a Westminster High School graduate and has her Associates in Arts degree from Golden West College. She previously worked at the Westminster Mall as a security officer and she was a Westminster Police Explorer for 4 years.



Andrea Martell- Dispatcher

Martell is a Westminster High School graduate and previously worked at South Coast Plaza as a security dispatcher.

The WPD family continues to grow. On May 29, 2007

Police Service Officer Ja'Nelle Belton and Records Supervisor Marc Contreras were sworn in by Chief Hall.



Ja' Nelle Belton- Police Service Officer

Belton has her Bachelors in Religious Studies from Spirit Life Bible College. She previously worked at Huntington Beach Police Department as a Records Specialist and she speaks conversational Mongolian.



Marc Contreras- Records Supervisor

Contreras has his Bachelors in Science degree from the University of Phoenix. He previously worked for the Cypress Police Department for 17 years, serving as Records Supervisor for the past 11 years.



Adrianne DiLeva -Intern



Erica Sack- Intern

Adrianne is attending Cerritos College and plans to transfer to California State University of Long Beach to complete her Criminal Justice degree. She is interested in a career in criminal justice.

Erica is attending Cerritos College and also plans to transfer to California State University of Long Beach to complete her degree. Her future plans are to attend law school and practice law.

Mayor's Ball

The Rose Center was filled on the evening of Saturday, June 22, 2007, as Mayor Margie Rice hosted her Annual Ball. Theme of this year's ball was "Nifty at 50," and Lieutenant Jack Davidson was the



Master of Ceremonies.

Westminster
Police
Department
Honor guard
presented the
colors with the
Marine Corps

Honor Guard. Also in attendance at this year's event were eight members of the WPOA.

The WPOA was one of the sponsors of the Mayor's Ball, and auctioned off a training day with the SWAT team. Congratulations to Chuck Ponti the winner!

Traffic Bureau Update

Intended For Your Protection



Driver Distractions

A great deal has been said and written about drivers using their cell phones and how much of a distraction this activity is to the driver's ability to drive in a safe manner. However, it should be noted that there are other activities that are regularly done by drivers that are just as distracting and are also prohibited by the California Vehicle Code.

Did you know that the vehicle code prohibits a driver from operating a vehicle while wearing a headset or earplugs on or in both ears?

This means that you cannot drive while wearing earplugs that are attached to those very popular I Pods. There is also a prohibition against a video monitor being in sight of the driver. There are some exceptions to this law that



allows for mapping and GPS devices. The purpose of these laws is to prevent the driver from being distracted while the vehicle is in motion.

Please remember to drive safely as we enter the very active summer driving season.



Wearing of Headsets or Earplugs 27400 CVC

A person operating a motor vehicle or bicycle may not wear a headset covering or earplugs in, both ears.

Television 27602 (a) CVC

A person may not drive a motor vehicle if a television receiver, a video monitor, or a television or video

screen, or any other, similar means of visually displaying a television broadcast or video signal that produces



entertainment or business applications, is operating and is located in the motor vehicle at any point forward of the back of the driver's seat, or is operating and visible to the driver while driving the motor vehicle.

Identity Theft

Intended For Your Protection





These skimming devices were found by an employee of an Arco Gas station in Huntington Beach. As you can see, they look just like the real thing.

These devices are connected to the machine by the suspect and may only stay resident for a few hours. They capture card numbers and PIN information (or zip codes) as the machine is



used. The devices are later retrieved by suspects, who then use the captured information to perpetrate identity theft.

A good rule of thumb is to ONLY use your ATM card to withdraw money from an ATM machine at a trusted bank. Suspects are less likely to attach skimming devices to ATM machines located at banks. If you were to use your ATM card at a location where a suspect had installed a skimming device, it would only be a matter of time before your bank account was depleted.

If you do not have cash on you and want to use a card, a credit card is recommended. If you were to be a victim, it is always better to have your credit card compromised than your ATM card.

Since these devices are not easy to detect, it is recommended that you look the device over and lightly pull on it to see if it is authentic or not. An authentic device will not fall off when pulled.



Police Department Phone Numbers

If you have an emergency, CALL 9-1-1!

For non-emergency or other business, call (714) 898-3315
General Information Ext. 425 Dispatch Ext. 326
Records Bureau Ext. 371 Traffic Division Ext. 339
Administration Ext. 301 Animal Control Ext. 365